

Hello,

My name is Pamela Gonzalez. I am 17 years old and I am a scholar at Connecticut River Academy in East Hartford, CT. I am from New Britain and I have been living in America since the day I was born. My mom is from Puerto Rico and she moved to the U.S. when she was 11 years old. My dad is from Ecuador and moved here when he was 34 years old. Since we are a family of four, and residents/citizens, we do have health insurance and coverage for different things.

When my family and I get sick, we are able to go to the doctors and have our insurance cover our expenses. Some worries that my family has when dealing with health care is if for some things we don't get coverage and it gets expensive to pay for, we would have to cut back on some expenses. People who don't have health insurance should also have a chance to get health care. This is because it's fair and just. If someone is really sick and not able to get any treatment, they may get worse costing the state even more.

No matter who they are, I believe everyone should have some access to health insurance like many others have. Children who have different illnesses and have no coverage could end up dying and their family will never be the same. If that was able to change and they get health insurance it would help the person and not let them get worse.

I support S.B. No 284, with clear language to extend current HUSKY eligibility rules to all CT residents, regardless of immigration status, and I ask the committee to support this legislation.